

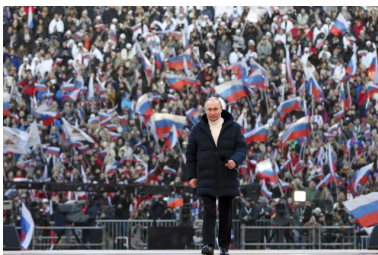
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Russia

Putinism - a new form of fascism?

- Features -



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The invasion of Ukraine has provoked debate on the nature of contemporary Russian society. It has been argued that Russia's war on Ukraine is part of an attack on democracy taking place globally, that Putin's Russia part of a growing authoritarianism. We publish here an important contribution to this debate by the exiled Russian theorist and socialist opposition activist Ilya Budraitskis, who argues that Putinism is a new form of fascism.

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For Arendt, the essence of fascist totalitarian society is not the penetration of politics into all social life, but rather the ultimate depoliticization, the disappearance of any notion of "common interest." This demobilizing role of fascism has been captured perfectly by Walter Benjamin. In the conclusion of "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," [[Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," *Illuminations* (London: Fontana, 1968), 214–18.

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